

National Park Service
2014 Environmental Achievement Awards

Honorable Mention

Greening Our Rides at Golden Gate

*Electric Vehicle Partnership:
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Muir Woods National Monument*

A coalition of two national parks and two community groups convened to expand and publicize the use of electric vehicles in Bay Area parklands. The “Electric Vehicle Partnership” is made up of staff from Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA), Muir Woods National Monument (MUWO), the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and the organization Adopt a Charger (AAC). AAC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to accelerate the widespread adoption of plug-in vehicles through the proliferation of public, fee-free electric car chargers which are “adopted” by sponsors.

In FY13, the partnership installed two public electric vehicle chargers at Muir Woods National Monument. AAC secured the support of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to sponsor the chargers at Muir Woods. The chargers are located in the parking lot closest to the visitor center, and are available for free to the public.

The Muir Woods project was the second in a partnership between GOGA, the Parks Conservancy, and Adopt a Charger. The first project at Crissy Field in San Francisco was completed in FY12 and has become an extremely popular charging destination, garnering attention from EV drivers, automakers, and the press. The chargers at Crissy Field were sponsored by the National Parks Conservation Association.

To take advantage of these new chargers, GOGA added seven electric plug-in vehicles to its fleet. Through a Clean Cities grant, MUWO purchased five plug-in vehicles.

The Muir Woods public chargers have used 3,011 kWh since they were installed in May 2013. This results in about 8,855 miles driven on electricity versus gasoline. According to the NPS Climate Leadership In Parks (CLIP) Tool, 8,855 miles of gasoline would generate 6,959 pounds CO₂.

Similarly, the plug-in vehicles in the park fleet have driven a combined 20,000 miles in two-plus years, which equates to a savings of 15,000 pounds of CO₂.